Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Claims Listing

1. (Currently amended) A test strip comprising a magnetically attractive material at one or more locations upon the test strip such that the test strip ~~moves or~~ adopts a specific spatial orientation or alignment when exposed to a magnetic field.

2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein the magnetically attractive material is present in the test strip at one or more locations at one end of the test strip.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein

the test strip is substantially flat and has a rectangular shape such that the test strip possesses two short edges of a first length and two long edges of a second length, the second length being longer than the first length; and

the magnetically attractive material is present in a zone on the test strip that is located such that the distance from the zone to one of the two short edges is shorter than the distance from the zone to the other of the two short edges.

4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein the magnetically attractive material is a tape affixed to the test strip.

5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein the tape comprises iron.

6. (Currently amended) A plurality of test strips comprising~~:~~

a first test strip comprising a magnetically attractive material; and

a second test strip comprising substantially no magnetically attractive material

wherein the first test strip exhibits a response to a magnetic field such that the first test strip adopts a specific spatial orientation or alignment in response to the magnetic field and the second test strip exhibits substantially no response to ~~a~~ the magnetic field.

7. (Previously presented) A method of sorting the plurality of test strips of claim 6, comprising

applying the magnetic field to the plurality of test strips, and

separating the first test strip from the second test strip by use of the difference in the responses of the first test strip and the second test strip to the magnetic field.

8. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein the difference in the responses of the first test strip and the second test strip to the magnetic field comprises movement of the first test strip in response to the magnetic field and substantially no movement of the second test strip in response to the magnetic field.

Claims 9-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously presented) A method of aligning or orienting the test strip of claim 1, comprising exposing the test strip to a magnetic field.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously presented) A method of counting test strips wherein the test strips are a plurality of the test strip of claim 1, the method comprising

applying a magnetic field to the test strips under such conditions as to cause the test strips to move; and

counting the test strips as they move in response to the magnetic field.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein

a) the test strips are located in a container prior to moving;

b) the strips exit the container when they move in response to the magnetic field; and

c) counting the test strips as they move in response to the magnetic field by monitoring changes in the gross weight of the container as the test strips exit the container.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein

a) the test strips are deposited into a container after the test strips move in response to the magnetic field; and

b) counting the test strips as they move in response to the magnetic field comprises monitoring changes in the gross weight of the container as the test strips enter the container.

21. (Previously presented) A method of counting test strips wherein the test strips are a plurality of the first test strip of Claim 6, the method comprising

applying a magnetic field to the test strips under such conditions as to cause the test strips to move; and

counting the test strips as they move in response to the magnetic field.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein

a) the test strips are located in a container prior to moving;

b) the strips exit the container when they move in response to the magnetic field; and

c) the test strips are counted as they move in response to the magnetic field by monitoring changes in the gross weight of the container as the test strips exit the container.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein

a) the test strips are deposited into a container after the test strips move in response to the magnetic field; and

b) the test strips are counted as they move in response to the magnetic field by monitoring changes in the gross weight of the container as the test strips enter the container.